

CALCOIN NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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Wind Up National Coin Week in Oakland

CALCOIN NEWS

Bulletin of the California State
Numismatic Association

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Vol. IV

MARCH, 1950

No. 2

OBSERVATIONS

Our new editor has asked me to write a page for the bulletin. It occurs to me that the space could most profitably be taken up with a brief consideration of what we have done in the past two and one-half years, take stock of ourselves, and see what we can do to profit by our experience and mistakes.

Perhaps, if I submit a few questions and give my own conclusions, some of you will take the time to sit down and write me a letter and disagree, or take a different view of the situation. Some of you may have pet peeves or ideas of your own to bring up.

We have made some mistakes. We have likewise accomplished some things we set out to do. Some things we have failed to do, and others we have not done so well as we might have. We have had much praise for what we have done. Now I invite your constructive criticism.

HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED THAT PURPOSE FOR WHICH WE ORGANIZED? My answer is yes. The thought when we organized was that very few collectors ever had the opportunity to meet with other collectors except in their own localities and then only with a limited number. Our purpose was to give them that opportunity by holding state conventions in different parts of the state. However, although many, many collectors who are not members have visited our conventions, out of a membership of 382, only 186 different members have come to one or more of the conventions. There is something wrong there.

IS OUR PROGRAM FOR HOLDING CONVENTIONS SATISFACTORY? Not entirely, I feel. We have held them semi-annually alternately in the northern and

southern parts of the state. There are a few who have wanted them held quarterly. There are more who have expressed themselves as being in favor of an annual convention. Recently I had a letter from a member who advocated holding an annual three-day convention, with a one-day regional meeting on the other semi-annual date held in two or three parts of the state. In my opinion, the idea has merit and should be given consideration.

SHOULD OUR CONVENTIONS FEATURE NUMISMATICS OR ENTERTAINMENT? I suppose the best answer is that due consideration should be given to both. Some collectors won't come unless they can bring their families, and their families won't come if there is nothing for them to do. Perhaps even the collector comes for a vacation. However, it is my feeling that we definitely should feature numismatic programs at our conventions. They should not be too long, and they should, I think, be of a nature that even a non-collector would enjoy. On the whole, we have failed in this matter thus far.

SHOULD OUR BULLETIN BE A NUMISMATIC MAGAZINE? The bulletin was not planned when we organized. It grew out of the necessity of keeping our members informed of our plans. Some will say that we have the ANA publication, The Numismatist, so why try to compete with such a finished numismatic magazine. But, not all our members are members of the ANA, and we need not COMPETE with The Numismatist. We can set our own standard and style. I think that we should devote space in the bulletin to numismatic articles and subjects, and that by so doing we will gain members and give something to those members who do not or cannot attend the conventions.

WHAT ABOUT OUR CLUB DELEGATES? It is a curious fact that the CSNA and ANA, independently of each other, at the same time decided on a policy of setting up club representatives in the corporate clubs. Each has the same duties and objectives for his respective organization. However, they are in no sense competitive.

The CSNA is an intermediate organization, itself a corporate member of the ANA, and a strong state organization cannot help but strengthen the national organization. Hence it follows that both representatives should work for their

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'BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH'

By SIDNEY HAAS, *El Cerrito*

Remember that line in "Julius Caesar"? It's one that I'll never forget. I still remember what an impression it made upon me during my school days. Few of us know what it means, however.

The month in Roman times was reckoned by the kalends (first of the month), the nones (ninth day before the ides), and the ides (the 15th day in the four long months; the 13th day in the short months). Thus, the Ides of March was Mar. 15, and the Ides was a day sacred to Jupiter. It was partly with the idea of representing the assassination of the dictator, Julius Caesar, as a sacrifice to Jupiter, that the conspirators stabbed him on the Ides.

Until 153 B.C. Mar. 1 was considered New Year's Day, but in that year it officially was shifted to Jan. 1. In England, until 1752, there existed a curious confusion due to misunderstanding, as most people believed the year really started (or ought to start) on Mar. 1. For this reason, dates in January and February were attributed to both the previous and following years, as Jan. 11, 1729/30 or Feb. 27, 1742/3. Thus, one could please himself as to which year he preferred to consider it. This was due to a vaguely-remembered tradition, and lack of authentic information about the change in 153 B.C.

Before Caesar's time, the calendar was in the hands of the priests. The long months had 31 days and the short ones, 29, except February, which had 28. This made the year become rapidly out of joint, and made it necessary for the priests to declare an additional month to be included in the calendar at various intervals. But they often were careless about it; in course of time they became politically crooked about it, and intercalated a month or refrained from it in order to shorten or lengthen the term of office of the consuls, who held office for one civil year.

Caesar found the year long out of joint when he became dictator. In 46 B.C., on the advice of Sosigenes, a famed astronomer, he corrected the year by intercalating in the regular manner and then adding an additional 67 days, thus bringing Jan. 1 back to Jan. 1. Mar. 15 also became again Mar. 15: The Ides of March. He also made all the short months 30 days, except February, but he decreed that every fourth year it should

regularly have 29. He also decreed that the priests were to have nothing to do with the calendar.

On Mar. 15, 44 B.C., Brutus, Cassius and their pals in a political plot stabbed the dictator, thus using a different way to shorten that magistrate's term of office. Brutus later commemorated that event in a denarius, now rare, bearing his head and BRVT. IMP. L. PLAET. CEST.; and on the reverse a pilens (the Roman freedman's felt skull cap, emblem of liberty) and two daggers (those used to stab Caesar), and EID. MAR. (The Ides of March).



THE 'IDES OF MARCH' COIN

OBSERVATIONS

(Continued from Page 2)

respective organizations, not as competitors but as collaborators.

There you have it. Tear it apart if you like. Elaborate on it if you choose. Add to it if you care to. Do anything but ignore it. If you are interested in this organization and you must have some interest or you wouldn't belong to it, let me know what your ideas are. The combined opinions of 347 members mean a lot more than the decisions of a five-man board of governors.

—Leonel C. Panosh, *Secretary*.

SAN DIEGO'S CONSULTING EXPERT ON COINS.—Mr. Panosh received a phone call like this: "My name is Smith, in the San Diego Sewer department. What do you call that bundle of sticks with a hatchet on the dimes?" Mr. Panosh couldn't think of "fascies" on the spur of the moment, but he did think of "lictors," and while he was stalling for time explaining about lictors to Mr. Smith, the name flashed on him—so all was well. He retained his reputation for knowing something about coins.

—San Diego Numismatic Society Bulletin

OAKLAND ANNOUNCES CONVENTION PLANS

By R. G. McARTHUR, *President*
East Bay Coin Club

The East Bay Coin club, Oakland, will be host to the sixth semi-annual convention of the California State Numismatic association Apr. 21, 22, and 23. The Leamington hotel, Franklin St. at 19th, will be convention headquarters. All activities will be held in the Victory room on the second floor except the Saturday evening banquet and the Sunday luncheon, which will be held in the Bowl on the main floor.

The convention will be opened officially at noon Friday, Apr. 21, and exhibits and bourse should be in place by noon or as soon thereafter as possible.

No entertainment has been planned for Friday afternoon. This will give many of us a chance to greet friends (perhaps to hold a caucus or rump meeting) and to look over some of the bargains the dealers will have to offer, before the rush.

Friday evening at 8 o'clock, there will be a numismatic meeting in charge of Alexander W. Ritchie and Sidney Haas. No doubt they will present some good speakers and discussions. (Some learned numismatist probably will tell us cents are not pennies, but don't believe it).

Business sessions will be held at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday mornings in order that all dealers (provided they are able to get up that early) may attend. Bourse and exhibits will open at 10 a.m. If enough members are interested, a light breakfast will be served at the business meetings.

Exhibits will be in charge of Roy Hill, 1140 Sutter St., San Francisco. The dealers' bourse will be supervised by Earl A. Parker, 1245 Market St., San Francisco.

Arrangements have been made for a boat trip around San Francisco Bay. This is a feature no one should miss, as it will be strictly a first class event. The boat is large enough to accommodate 200 persons, with a minimum of 55. The trip will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Coffee and sandwiches will be served on board. Jim Rogers and Thelma Fiehler are in charge of the trip.

We decided that both a boat trip and a bus ride would be too much, so no bus ride has been scheduled. Instead, there will be a car pool for the benefit of visitors who desire to be shown some particular place or places of interest.

The entertainment for the Saturday evening banquet and the Sunday luncheon will be in charge of a committee composed of Frank X. Galvin, chairman and emcee, Miriam Dial and W. H. Connell. They promise to present a program which will be high class, not too long, and not too short. As all of them are or have been professional entertainers and agents, I know it will be OK.

The regular convention auction will be conducted by Sam J. Kabealo, 15 N. Euclid avenue, Pasadena. He has assured us that he will have a fine auction. As usual, the sale will be held in two sessions, probably Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Hotel reservations should be made early, as Oakland has a limited number of hotels, and other conventions will be held there at the same time.

EAST BAY JUNIORS

The second junior coin activity for the San Francisco area was organized Apr. 15, 1948—just a day ahead of Oakland's famous East Bay Coin club, believe it or not—at the Oakland YMCA, for it was found that there were many young coin collectors who did not attend meetings of the San Francisco group because of evening transportation inconveniences.

Meetings were held until summer, but because of conflict with school activities—you'll find good collectors usually are the hub of many school doings—attendance dropped and meetings had to be suspended. Since the recent ANA convention in San Francisco, new names were obtained from which to start anew, with several of the original members coming back.

Work is nearing completion on an emblem for this group. It was difficult to get one that would specifically typify or suggest the East Bay area as a whole without resorting to a geographical layout. The secretary, Lynn White, has done some excellent work, which will be ready in April.

Meetings are now held on the fourth Friday each month at 7 p.m. in the Oakland Public Museum, 1426 Oak St., near the end of 14th St. at Lake Merritt, Oakland. Officers are William Walton, president; John Mee, vice-president; Lynn White, secretary; Wayne Frick, treasurer; Roy Hill, counselor. You'll see them around CSNA in Oakland in April.

STATE NUMISMATIC EXHIBITION AND BOURSE

By ROY HILL, *Exhibits Chairman*

In connection with the CSNA Convention in Oakland, there will be a numismatic exhibition and bourse Apr. 22 and 23.

All collectors who would like to make displays are invited to do so, and it is requested that advance reservations for exhibit space be placed with the exhibits chairman (Roy Hill, 1140 Sutter St., San Francisco 9, Calif.) not later than Friday, Apr. 14, so that space and cases can be assigned prior to their arrival.

The CSNA exhibit cases total 89, but since some will be used for bourse spaces, advance reservations requests will enable the committee to plan in advance.

The exhibit cases have an inside clear exhibit area of 20 inches by 20½ inches and the clear depth from bottom of case to glass top varies from one inch to two. About five or six cases have a depth of about three inches. If exhibitors have special cases or mountings of their own and desire to use them for their coins, this information will be appreciated, as it will allow cases to be assigned elsewhere. Also, if exhibitors have paper money that could be mounted on loose pages, somewhat in the fashion of stamp mountings, the loan of stamp frames could be arranged to house them and keep them displayed to good advantage. The stamp frames that could be procured will each hold four pages, each maximum size of 8½ by 11 inches—standard stationery sheet size. Numismatic items other than paper money, such as old bank checks, numismatic documents, etc., also could be displayed in such frames. Please specify your needs, so proper arrangements can be made.

The exhibition will be open to the public at 10 a.m. Saturday, Apr. 22; therefore, it would be desirable to have all exhibits in place by 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Exhibit area will be put in order from Friday noon, Apr. 21. Exhibitors are requested to give the approximate time they expect to be on hand between noon Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday to place their exhibits.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All exhibits should remain intact until the advertised closing hour of the exhibition, Sunday, Apr. 23. The necessity for early departure of some exhibitors on Sunday

before the closing hour will be accommodated, but such arrangements should be made at the time of request for space or when the exhibit is put in place.

The California State Numismatic association will provide suitable competitive awards and participation ribbons or awards.

Special awards may be provided, as may be offered by coin dealers, individuals or organizations. The first such award was introduced at San Diego by the Numismatic Gallery, Beverly Hills, known as the Numismatic Gallery Trophy. It goes to the first exhibitor attaining a total of 15 points, based on a schedule of 5 points for a first, 3 for a second, 2 for a third, and 1 for a fourth place.

Exhibits for purposes of competitive awards might well be arranged somewhat in the following groupings:

1. United States—gold coins, proofs, uncirculated.
2. United States and foreign—general exhibits.
3. Specialized exhibits—single country or issue(s).
4. Ancient, Byzantine, medieval coins.
5. Coins of topical or general public interest.
6. Paper money.
7. Numismatic literature.
8. Junior exhibits.

Exhibitors are asked to specify as nearly as they can determine, the title of their exhibits for competitive purposes. The committee reserves the right to group the exhibits and place them to the best advantage to promote the best interests of the exhibition.

Adequate protective measures will be undertaken to protect the exhibits, with police protection from the time exhibits are set up to the closing hour.

DO NOT LOOK FOR ANOTHER CALCOIN NEWS NEXT WEEK

Because of the illness of an editorial assistant, copy for the January issue was delayed in reaching the San Francisco printer. In order to prevent difficulties of this sort, this and future copies of Calcoin News will be published in San Jose, where the editor resides. The next issue will appear following the state convention in Oakland.

CALIFORNIA CLUB NEWS, VIEWS, and WHO's

THE BAY CITIES COIN CLUB installation dinner was held Jan. 14 at the Carolina Pines restaurant, Melrose avenue, Los Angeles. Charles L. Ruby, member of the ANA board of governors, installed the following officers: Karl Brainard, president; Jack Ogilvie, vice-president (in absentia); Mrs. C. Max Wedertz, secretary; and Dr. Oscar Hubb, treasurer.

Dr. L. I. Kaffeseider, Joe Block, and Ben Schwartz are governors. Harry M. Davidson, 2212 Patricia Ave., W. Los Angeles 25, Calif., is CSNA representative.

Abe Kosoff was master of ceremonies, and the speaker of the evening was Ralph (Curly) Mitchell, who gave a splendid talk on "Odd and Curious Money," supported by a very complete exhibit.

Out-of-town visitors besides Dr. Ruby were Mr. and Mrs. Leonel C. Panosh, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Knickerbocker, Mrs. Marie Devlin, and Mr. Eugene D. Johnston, all of San Diego. Mr. Panosh is secretary-treasurer of the California State Numismatic association and second vice-president of the American Numismatic association. The 50 persons present were served excellent fried chicken.

Bay Cities held its February meeting on the eighth of the month at Helen Foster's restaurant, Second and Wilshire, Santa Monica. All club meetings are preceded by a dinner. Dr. Charles L. Ruby, Fullerton, conducted a "Twenty Queries" contest.

The Bay Cities club meets the second Wednesday of each month at Helen Foster's restaurant, corner of Second and Wilshire, Santa Monica. Dinner is served at 6:30 and meetings begin at 8 p.m. Club membership is 57.

Speakers and their topics for 1949: January: Dr. C. L. Emmons installed new officers. Abe Kosoff was named program chairman; February: Sam Kabealo, "Coin Collectors' Primer" and Joe Block, "Certain Modern Scarcities"; April: Lew Reagan, "Activities of the ANA" and Kenneth Lee, "California Gold Coinage"; May: H. L. Budd, "Carson City Coinage" and Charles C. Mills, "The Lincoln Cents"; June: Dr. Oscar Hubb, "Stamps and Coins" and Ben Schwartz, "Coins of the World"; July: Jack W. Ogilvie, "Roll Collecting" and Compton Johnson, "Early Half Dollars"; September: Karl M. Brainard, "Beebter Coinage" and Abe Kosoff, "Quiz Program";

October: Ladies Night; Charles Ruby, "Activities of the ANA"; November: Ken Older, "Standing Liberty Quarters" and Arthur Edwards, "Coinage of the South African Republic"; December: Lew Friedman, "Collecting Circulated Coins" and Jack Ogilvie, "Early Membership in the ANA."

—Harry S. Davidson.

* * *

EAST BAY COIN CLUB, OAKLAND.

—At the Jan. 13 meeting in Jenny Lind hall, Mr. Frank X. Galvin reported on entertainment for the coming convention, Mr. R. G. McArthur reported on the convention and Mr. Ellwood Ellinger on identification badges.

The grab bag, in which members place contributions to be sold for the benefit of the convention fund, again will be opened at the March meeting. The last opening of the bag produced \$40.

Mr. McArthur made the following appointments for 1950: Harley L. Parsons, sergeant-at-arms; Mr. Evans, Mr. Galvin and Mr. Thrall, membership; Mr. William Poizner and Mr. A. N. Edell, auction; Mrs. Thelma Fieberling, refreshments. Mr. Walt Ritchie was appointed chairman of a National Coin Week committee.

Exhibits were made by the following members: Roy Hill, numismatic books; F. X. Galvin, freak cents; C. V. Kappen, English 'Dimout' penny; E. A. Parker, mint sets; R. G. McArthur, miscellaneous U.S.; and Sam J. Kabealo, visiting member from Pasadena, Panama Pacific gold set.

Frank Carson monitored the educational program which the club is now conducting. Mr. Ritchie spoke on two cent pieces, fractional coinage, 20 cent pieces, and trade dollars.

Sixty-five members and 15 guests were present. After guests were introduced, the auction was held and refreshments were served.

The 24th regular meeting was held Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. Mr. Clifford Bloom spoke on gold commemoratives and Mr. J. H. Rogers talked on ancient coinage.

Exhibits were as follows: Rudy Gjurovich, various Lincoln items; E. A. Parker, new foreign issues, ancients, and a Confederate restrike half dollar; Mr. Peters, U. S. dollars; and Mr. Steele, 2 cent, 3 cent, and 20 cent pieces, lacking two coins of being complete.

Mr. J. H. Rogers reported on convention publicity. Mr. McArthur asked for volunteers to serve as chairman and members of a car pool. This was suggested as a means of transporting visiting members and guests during the state convention. Mr. W. H. Connell reported on entertainment and Mr. Ritchie discussed National Coin Week arrangements.

Mr. Art Kagin of the Hollinbeck Stamp and Coin Co., Des Moines, Ia., was a visitor. Forty-eight members and 13 guests were present.—J. H. Rogers.

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THE HANFORD COIN CLUB meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1117 N. Irwin St., Hanford, Calif. Officers for 1949 were Merrill Cole, president; Forest Speck, vice-president; Fred Tinkham, secretary-treasurer; and Edward Fish, auctioneer. —Everett Ostrom.

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HOLLYWOOD ACADEMY OF NUMISMATICS.—What may prove to be an innovation in numismatics was started recently by a group of collectors, when the Hollywood Academy of Numismatics was formed. This is not a coin club or social society. The academy was organized solely to produce eight and 16 mm. pictures on various subjects of interest to coin collectors. No memberships are being issued at present, as this phase of the organization has not been worked out thoroughly. Loyd Gattys, Lee Hewitt, Stuart Mosher, Don Searle, Karl Brainard, Lewis M. Reagan, Abe Kosoff, Mike Molony, Joe Block and Jack Ogilvie are the organizers. Others will be added as the academy progresses.

An interesting program is being planned, and it is hoped to get the initial production underway soon. Within a few months one not only will be able to hear a top discourse on his pet numismatic subject but will see it simultaneously on a large screen.

—Jack W. Ogilvie, Exec. Sec.

* * *

THE ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB held its annual banquet and installation ceremonies at the Brea Woman's clubhouse Jan. 25. Adolph Larson, Los Angeles, installed the following officers: J. R. Stewart, president; Ralph Hillman, vice-president; Herbert M. Bergen, secretary; V. G. Rich, treasurer; Art Shipley, corresponding secretary; George Powell, librarian-curator; and Stewart Bingham, C. L. Emmons, Charles Kiser and Joe Steele, board of directors.

J. Howard Robinson, Arcadia, was

master of ceremonies; Herbert Bergen, Fullerton, chairman. There was a good dinner, followed by a barber shop quartet (really good) and a talk by Ralph E. Chase on "What Made the Gay Nineties Gay." That was GOOD. Many of us laughed till we cried. The usual introductions and speeches were made before the installation.

There were 112 persons present. The membership is spread over Los Angeles, Orange county, Riverside and San Berdoo, so it is next to impossible to know who was and who was not a member in so large a gathering as this was. Among the out-of-town visitors and members were Ralph Mitchell, Bakersfield; Everett Ostrom, Kingsburg; Harry Davidson, Santa Monica; Johnny Lenker, Redlands; and Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Panosh, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Knickerbocker, Mrs. Marie Devlin, and Mr. Eugene D. Johnston, San Diego.

—Calvert L. Emmons.

* * *

THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB held its 20th meeting at the San Bernardino Valley college Jan. 19. Bryan O. Burke Jr. gave an interesting talk on a Mohammedan coin. From an impression of the coin in plastic, he projected its image on a screen to illustrate his talk. He pointed out the Christian significance of the initials, "I. H. S." on the coin.

Don Smyser made a short talk on Israel, and showed the recent stamps of that country which portray coins of A.D. 135. He pointed out that these were the first stamps to bear likenesses of coins.

Lloyd Blue presided. Present were 14 members and one guest. Fred Smith won as door prize the book, "Coins of the World". Lloyd Blue won second prize, a 1949 S Franklin half dollar. An auction was held at the close of the meeting. Two gold coins were among the many items put up for sale.

—Bland B. Haydon.

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THE SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY held its annual installation banquet in the Gold room of the U. S. Grant hotel Jan. 28. More than 60 persons were present despite a rain storm which seems always to be scheduled for the same night.

Dr. Bruce L. Wallace installed the following officers for 1950: Wayne L. Higbee, president; Col. Stanley Newton, USMC, vice-president; Mrs. W. L. Higbee, secretary; James Crouthamel, treas-

urer; and Paul Boltz, librarian-curator. Mr. L. C. Panosh was master of ceremonies. Feature of the evening was a talk by Abe Kosoff on "Stories Behind Coins". Displays by members were judged and ribbons were awarded to James Crouthamel, T. W. Ward, Wesly Meier and Vreeland Fraser for first, second, third and fourth places, respectively.

Distinguished guests present were Lewis M. Reagan, general secretary of the ANA; Richard Yeoman and Charles Ruby, members of the ANA board of governors (which with yours truly as second veep ANA, made four national officers present); Karl Brainard, president of the Bay Cities club; J. R. Stewart, president of the Orange County club and CSNA director; Dr. C. L. Emmons, past president of the CSNA and member of the CSNA board of governors; Harry Davidson, past president of the Bay Cities club; Charles Kiser, vice-president of the CSNA and past president of the Orange County club; Joe Steele, past president of the Orange County club; Abe Kosoff of the Numismatic Gallery; and Vreeland Fraser, La Canada. —L. C. Panosh.

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THE TODO DINERO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, SAN JOSE, began the New Year with a meeting in the Hotel DeAnza Jan. 9. George H. Beurhaus, vice-president of the Pacific Coast Numismatic society, gave an entertaining and enlightening talk in which he described his recent trip into Mexico and through the mint there. He gave a vivid account of the various mint operations.

Alexander W. Ritchie, member of the East Bay Coin club board of governors, addressed the association's meeting Feb. 6 on "U.S. Postage and Fractional Currency". E. A. Parker and Rudy Gjurovich exhibited paper money in keeping with the theme of the evening.

Distinguished visitors present were Mr. R. S. Yeoman, Racine, Wis., member of the ANA board of governors; Mr. Frank X. Galvin, Oakland, chairman of the entertainment committee for the CSNA convention April 21-23; and Mr. Frank Lo Guidice, San Jose. Mr. Yeoman extended a warm invitation to the ANA convention in Milwaukee. Mr. Galvin gave an inkling of what we may expect the East Bay club to do as host in April. Mr. Guidice displayed a collection of early Chinese odd and curious money, which was described by Mr. Ritchie, an expert on Chinese coins.

Mr. Harvey Hansen, former ANA vice-president, will address the March meeting. —George F. Hodges.

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Editor's Note: The preceding accounts of state club meetings were all we'd received at press time. Will CSNA representatives or club secretaries please send in news of meetings or other activities to the editor as soon as you can do so. C. V. Kappen, 2201 Peachtree Lane, San Jose, Calif.

PENINSULA JUNIOR COIN CLUB

In San Mateo county the third junior coin group in the San Francisco area is holding regular meetings, having been founded in the fall of 1948 to accommodate a growing list of prospective coin collectors who were finding traveling to evening meetings in San Francisco a bit inconvenient.

Meetings are now held on the first Friday each month, at 7 p.m. in the San Mateo Public library, Second Ave. and S. San Mateo Dr., San Mateo. The members are much younger than the San Francisco or Oakland groups, but their enthusiasm for coins is by no means less intense, as is shown by their regular attendance.

In August, 1949, just ahead of the ANA convention, an exhibit of coins was placed in the San Mateo County Fiesta along with other hobby exhibits and two ribbons and a gold cup attest to the good work done.

The emblem of this organization is of particular interest. It fits into the background history of the area very appropriately, as it is an adaption from one of the privately struck gold coins put out by Baldwin & Co. 100 years before. It shows a horseman, representative of the vaqueros who roamed the lands in those pioneer days.

Officers for 1950 are Loran Blackwell, president; John Pohl, vice-president; Lawrence C. Holian, secretary; Michael Malter, treasurer; Roy Hill, counselor. They and their cohorts will meet you in Oakland.



THE JUNIOR COIN COLLECTORS OF SAN FRANCISCO is perhaps the oldest organization of its kind in the country, for it was founded Oct. 10, 1934, by the late Ernest R. Wernstrom who was active in California numismatic circles from 1927 to 1938, the year of his death.



Its activities since January, 1938, have been under the guidance of Roy Hill as counselor, who had himself been closely associated with the group since its first meetings.

A paper, "The Eaglet" which had been started by Mr. Wernstrom the month he died was carried on and soon was known all over the country.

Many numismatic shows and activities were arranged which would have done credit to an adult group, the most conspicuous being the original COIN CITY exhibit at Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island, San Francisco, May to September, 1940, as part

of a National Hobby show. The last big show, a week-long exhibit, was held in the San Francisco Public library during National Coin Week in April, 1948.

Activities are planned for the 16th anniversary in October, for the April convention in Oakland, and for National Coin Week.

The present activity has brought together some promising young collectors, some of whom have a good numismatic interest in coins of ancient and foreign countries as well as of the United States. They also have used coins as the subject matter for school papers and have learned that knowledge gained through collecting coins makes school work a pleasure.

Meetings are held regularly, except in summer vacation months, on the third Friday of the month in the San Francisco Public library, Civic Center, Larkin St. at McAllister, San Francisco, at 7:30 p.m.

Officers for 1950 are Robert Illing, president; Dean Maddox Jr., vice-president; Tom Twohey, secretary; Robert Hubenette, treasurer; and Bert Witte, sergeant-at-arms.

—Roy Hill, *Counselor*.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

ADDRESS CHANGES

262	BAILEY, Lloyd E.	2231 Midvale Ave., Los Angeles 64, Calif.
117	BAY CITIES COIN CLUB, Mrs. C. Max Wedertz, secretary,	
		2132 Pier Ave., Santa Monica, Calif.
274	BLUESTONE, Bernard W.	
		232 Harrison St., Hotel Hilton Bldg., Syracuse 2, N. Y.
57	CONNER, Allen R.	860 Partridge Ave., Menlo Park, Calif.
31	CONNOR, Willard C.	Route 1, Box 806, Fair Oaks, Calif.
18	CRATON, P. F.	143 Venetia Dr., Long Beach 3, Calif.
39	HELLER, Robert J.	Barbara Hotel, 1927 W. Sixth St., Los Angeles 5, Calif.
148	HESTER, Clint	11237 Graham Pl., Los Angeles 64, Calif.
226	KAPLAN, Sol	413 Race St., Cincinnati, O.
163	PATTERSON, Robert C.	1255 Grove St., San Francisco 17, Calif.
34	ROBINSON, J. Howard	346 Fairview Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
320	RYAN, C. H.	57 Montague St., Brooklyn 2, N. Y.
348	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB	P. O. Box 236, Upland, Calif.
81	SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, Mrs. W. L. Higbee, secretary,	
		2684 Preece St., San Diego 11, Calif.
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THE TRIBUTE PENNY OF THE BIBLE

By DON SMYSER, *San Bernardino*

No doubt it is more than presumptuous to attempt writing anything which might be authoritative on a subject so familiar as the Tribute Penny. Nevertheless, it is the writer's hope that these few words may leave the reader with a little more vivid picture of the controversy and moral lesson associated with the original Tribute Penny.

Let us stop to consider the scene in which the Tribute Penny is mentioned. It was spring in Judea in the year we have come to know as 30 A.D. The sun shone brightly and the "land of hills and valleys" was blanketed with green. In the valleys down by the Jordan the lilies were in their splendor. The barley heads were beginning to ripen on the hillside, and around Jericho a few figs were starting to change color. And on every road from Dan to Beer-sheeba there were pilgrims. They were singing the psalms of Zion as they journeyed to Jerusalem, for this was the Passover season.

Jerusalem in feast day temper was fearsome to behold. Between the zeal of the Galilean nationalist and the ardor of the Judean religionist, Rome had to set a close watch with her legions from Caesarea. The latest trouble concerned Jesus of Nazareth. He claimed to be the Messiah but appeared far more interested in healing the sick and preaching about His Father, than in wresting Judea from the Roman conqueror. Or so it seemed to the priests in Ophel, that suburb of Jerusalem where the priests lived, as they discussed the happenings of the day just passed that Sunday evening. It seems that this Jesus had come up to the feast and had ridden into the city from Bethany on a donkey. But a foolish mob had insisted on a scene. They had made quite a commotion as He entered the city, throwing their garments before Him and waving branches and shouting Hosannas. Anything might happen if the people were not watched and guided.

This was still idle gossip to those who were awakened early Monday morning by a blast from the ram's horn and rose to greet the sun's rising and to serve in the temple. As the sun climbed the eastern sky above the Mount of Olives, the temple worship proceeded on schedule; the incense was burned in the

sanctuary, prayers were offered in the courtyard, psalms were chanted by the singers on the sanctuary steps, the morning lamb was offered on the brazen altar. In midmorning a commotion disturbed the calmness of the temple. The center of the disturbance was in the stalls in the outer court. First voices were raised in protest then shouts and screams arose, mingled with the howling and bleating of frightened cattle. A turmoil of men and beasts from the commercial concessions of old Annas crowded out of the temple gate in mingled pandemonium and fright. Strange! but they seemed to be driven by one lone man swinging a scourge. Quickly the news spread through the temple and then through Jerusalem. It was Jesus of Nazareth. As the Sun went down Monday night the defense was being organized. Quickly and surely the priests, the Pharisees, the Saducees, the Herodians, the lawyers, scribes, and elders met to defend the established system. Men who but today had argued fine points of doctrine were now united in purpose: there was too much danger of insurrection in the affairs of the last two days. Rome could march her legions from Caesarea, Antioch, and Alexandria and make short work of Jewry. Among the proposals was a trap which surely should deliver him to the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate. "Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar?" If he said "yes," he would be disgraced before the people and no longer a threat; if he said "no," the Romans might have him as an insurrectionist before the revolt became general.

Tuesday, a morning of expectancy, dawned. The trap was set; would he come? By midmorning the tension had grown almost to a snapping point. Finally he came with his little handful of disciples. Boldly he entered and took a place in the north court and began to teach. Had he no shame? The temple guard with the chief priests and scribes approached him. He was no recognized teacher, how dared he teach? A controversy began which was destined to be recorded and referred to as the lesson of the tribute money. "And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words. And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person

of men, but teachest the way of God in truth; Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? Shall we give or shall we not give? But he knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, 'Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.' And they brought it. And he saith unto them, 'Whose is this image and superscription?' and they said unto him, "Caesar's." And Jesus answering said unto them, 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's,' and they marveled at him."

We shall notice that the question is one of money to pay the Roman tribute. There were three types of taxes paid by the Jews. (They had multiple taxes the same as we have today.) In Matt. 17:24 Peter was questioned as to whether Jesus paid the didrachm, as it is called in the Greek text. This was for the upkeep of the temple and was a purely Jewish tax which was first mentioned in Ex. 30:13-16 as being commanded by God to Moses. It is well known that St. Matthew was a tax-collector before his conversion at Capernium on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. In Mk. 2:14 we read that he was sitting that day in the "toll house," as Thayer translates the Greek word "telonion". This toll house was the place where the fishing boats of Galilee paid their quotas of fish to Rome and the travelers plying between Babylon and Damascus to Alexandria in Egypt paid their toll to Rome. Neither of these would be what the Pharisees called "poll tax" as Thayer again translates the Greek word "keenson." Josephus, the Jewish historian in War ii.16,44, says that the Roman Capital tax was one drachm per year, per man. One thus gets a fair idea of the type of tribute or tax which was repulsive to the Nationalistic Jews of Christ's day.

Having determined the type of tribute, let us investigate the denomination of the coin called "penny" in the authorized version of the Bible. The American Standard version, the Chaldoner-Rheims and other later translations render this word penny literally as denarius. The Roman denarius would agree with Josephus' drachm as they are valued alike, one being Roman, the other Greek. It is a silver coin of about 60 grains weight, and was first coined by the Romans in 187 B.C. It acquired its name from its value "10 asses," an "aes" being the original standard copper coin of Rome. Many of the dinars during the Republic bore a large X on the

obverse indicating the value of 10. By the time of Augustus and Tiberius they had changed their value so as to be tariffed at 16 asses to a denarius.

The next question which arises is, which denarius would it be? Augustus died in the year 14 A.D. and as Tacitus, Ann 1,3 and Suetonius Aug. 97, Tib. 21 report, Tiberius was adopted two years



THE TRIBUTE PENNY

before Augustus' death and reigned these two years concurrently with him. As the event we are studying occurred in the year 30 A.D., Tiberius had reigned for 18 years, 16 of them alone. Very likely then, although we cannot be dogmatic, it was a coin issued by Tiberius. Sixteen years would be long enough for a new coin to become current, especially in a border province such as Judea where the emperor stationed and paid his legions with Imperial coinage. Even if this were not sufficient to make a coin current in 16 years, it must be remembered that the Imperial coinage was the Emperor's bulletin board, announcing liberalities, victories and even proposed architectural features. It must have been the policy of the Empire to hasten the circulation of new issues, since they carried important propaganda value.

Following is a description of a denarius of Tiberius Caesar which has been commonly accepted as the Tribute Penny: *Obverse*: Laureate head of Tiberius to right; border of dots. Upward from bottom, right to left, legend. TI CAESAR DIVI AUG F AUGUSTI. *Reverse*: Livia seated on throne to right; diademed and robed holding in right hand scepter, in left hand palm branch; border of dots. PONTIF (right) MAXIM (left). AR 8/12; Wt. 60 grs.

Eidersheim, in "Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah," Bk. V Ch. III, has an interesting footnote: "By a strange concurrence the coin which on Christ's demand was handed to Him, bore 'the image' of the Emperor. It must, therefore have been either a foreign one (Roman)," Neither Herod nor

Herod Antipas had any "image" on his coins, but only the usual "devices" of the Maccabaeon period. And the coins which the Roman Emperors had struck specially for Palestine, bore till the time of Vespasian, in accommodation to Jewish prejudice, no image of any kind.

Other minor possibilities which have been considered have been the copper coins of the Tetrarch Philip which bore the image of Tiberius on occasion, or a drachm of Caesarea in Cappadocia, neither of which could be called "denarius", strictly speaking.

Finally we notice that the Master called attention to two things about this coin: the Emperor's "image" and his "superscription", from which He taught a moral lesson of eternal value, silencing His critics. In the words, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's", Jesus' hearers that day would be re-

minded that "God created man in His image", Gen. 1:27. Man bearing God's image is responsible to render himself to his maker. The coin bearing the superscription of Caesar would pass current in Caesar's realm. To the nationalistic Jew this was very real, for it reminded him of the conqueror, who could coin money and collect taxes. As Jesus said, "Render—unto God the things that are God's" the Jews who heard Him would remember that all creation was within God's realm and God could and would collect that which was due Him from mankind.

As we each handle a Tribute Penny, whether our own or another's, we may well wonder: was this the coin my Savior held so long ago? And as we hold that little silver coin hardly bigger than a dime we seem to hear echoing down two millenniums, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's".

NATIONAL COIN WEEK, APRIL 14 - 21

California coin clubs, individual members, and junior members who hold membership in the American Numismatic association are eligible to compete for awards during National Coin Week Apr. 14-21. Individual entries also may be part of a club entry, but must be submitted separately as well as with the club activities report. Entries must be in the hands of the Chairman of the Awards Committee, *Herbert M. Bergen, P.O. Box 98, Brea, Calif., by May 15.* The new rules and award points follow:

	Minimum	Maximum
PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF NUMISMATIC EXHIBITS,		
<i>Each display location</i>	5	25
Point scoring for each location will take into consideration the number of displays, prominence of location, popular interest and numismatic story told by exhibits, excellence of arrangement and labeling. Presence of club members to explain exhibits will be considered. Monetary value of exhibits will not be considered.		
PUBLICITY		
<i>Articles in daily newspapers</i> , including headlines are rated at 1 point a column inch	1	no limit
<i>Photographs</i> in daily newspapers are rated at double the value of articles but have a maximum value of 10 points each		10 each
<i>Radio time</i> — $\frac{1}{2}$ point a minute, but no maximum. Minimum of 1 point for spot announcements	1	no limit
<i>Television time</i> —double radio time with a 5-point minimum for each	5	no limit
<i>Special events</i> , each	2	10
<i>Coin talks</i> , each	5	15
Miscellaneous notices, <i>club bulletins</i> , posters, weekly newspaper notices, etc., each	1	5
Applications for membership in the ANA, each		10
Applications for membership in the local club, each		5
Percentage of membership participation, based on resident members (for corporate clubs only)	1	100
Character of report submitted to assist in judging, including photographs	0	20